

**Hydrogenating decomposition of ammonium formates in polyol-containing reaction mixtures**

**Abstract**

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A process for removing trialkylammonium formate from methylolalkanes which have been obtained by condensation of formaldehyde with a higher aldehyde comprises decomposing trialkylammonium formate at elevated temperature in the presence of a hydrogen-containing gas over a catalyst comprising ruthenium supported on titanium dioxide. The process makes it possible to separate off the trialkylammonium formate from methylolalkanes prepared by the organic Cannizzaro process or by the 10 hydrogenation process.